

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of selecting from a plurality of communication arrangements comprising:
inputting a first party's ability to communicate with a second party;
evaluating a communication arrangement based on said first party's ability to
communicate;
repeating said evaluating for a different communication arrangement if said first party's
ability does not match a communication arrangement previously evaluated; and
implementing a communication arrangement when said first party's ability matches a
communication arrangement.
2. The method in claim 1, wherein said communication arrangements comprise purchase
order and billing communications between a purchasing corporation and a supplier.
3. The method in claim 2, wherein said first party comprises said supplier and said second
party comprises said purchasing corporation.
4. The method in claim 1, wherein said evaluating comprises inputting said first party's
ability into a decision tree.

1 5. The method in claim 4, wherein said decision tree orders communication arrangements
2 that are evaluated by their cost effectiveness to the second party.

1 6. The method in claim 1, further comprising before said implementing, performing a cost-
2 benefit analysis with respect to a communication arrangement matching said first parties ability.

1 7. The method in claim 6, wherein said cost-benefit analysis compares the cost of
2 establishing a matching communication arrangement to the cost of a next communication
3 arrangement.

4 8. A method of selecting from a plurality of communication arrangements comprising:
5 inputting a first party's ability to communicate with a second party;
6 evaluating a communication arrangement based on said first party's ability to
7 communicate;
8 repeating said evaluating for a different communication arrangement if said first parties
9 ability does not match a communication arrangement previously evaluated;
10 performing a cost-benefit analysis with respect to a communication arrangement
11 matching said first parties ability; and
implementing a communication arrangement when said first party's ability matches a
communication arrangement and said cost-benefit shows said communication arrangement is
justified.

1 9. The method in claim 8, wherein said communication arrangements comprises purchase
2 order and billing communications between a purchasing corporation and a supplier.

1 10. The method in claim 9, wherein said first party comprises said supplier and said second
2 party comprises said purchasing corporation.

1 11. The method in claim 8, wherein said evaluating comprises inputting said first party's
2 ability into a decision tree.

1 12. The method in claim 11, wherein said decision tree orders communication arrangements
2 that are evaluated by their cost effectiveness to the second party.

1 13. The method in claim 8, wherein said cost-benefit analysis compares the cost of
2 establishing a matching communication arrangement to the cost of a next communication
3 arrangement.

1 14. A program storage device readable by machine tangibly embodying a program of
2 instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for selecting from a plurality of
3 communication arrangements, said method comprising:
4 inputting a first party's ability to communicate with a second party;

5 evaluating a communication arrangement based on said first party's ability to
6 communicate;
7 repeating said evaluating for a different communication arrangement if said first party's
8 ability does not match a communication arrangement previously evaluated; and
9 implementing a communication arrangement when said first party's ability matches a
10 communication arrangement.

1 15. The program storage device in claim 14, wherein said communication arrangements
2 comprise purchase order and billing communications between a purchasing corporation and a
3 supplier.

1 16. The program storage device in claim 15, wherein said first party comprises said supplier
2 and said second party comprises said purchasing corporation.

1 17. The program storage device in claim 14, wherein said evaluating comprises inputting said
2 first party's ability into a decision tree.

1 18. The program storage device in claim 17, wherein said decision tree orders communication
2 arrangements that are evaluated by their cost effectiveness to the second party.

1 19. The program storage device in claim 14, further comprising before said implementing,
2 performing a cost- benefit analysis with respect to a communication arrangement matching said
3 first parties ability.

1 20. The program storage device in claim 19, wherein said cost-benefit analysis compares the
2 cost of establishing a matching communication arrangement to the cost of a next communication
3 arrangement.

continued